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Noteworthy:

“People at the highest levels of the white house talking about this. They are reaching out to both Republicans and the Democrats. I think it is nice that they do, although the constitution doesn't require that. But I think the president ought to invite names of people or characteristics of the type of person that each individual thinks that they ought to nominate and who knows, out of a meeting like that, may some new names that haven't popped up yet. So I think that that is all you can expect out of a meeting like that, because the President has to make this as an individual decision. It's not a collective judgment of a few senators it is only the judgment of the President of the United States.”

-Senator Grassley, MSNBC, 7/11/05

“I would like to update you, in terms of where we are in terms of consultations with the Senate, because the White House consultations have been wide and deep with the United States Senate. I think you heard Senator Hatch yesterday talk about how, in his 29 years in the United States Senate, he has not seen anything like this when it comes to the level of consultation that is going on. It is unprecedented, in his words, and he's certainly been around the Senate for a long time to see the type of consultations that go on.

“But we have reached out to more than 60 senators now, and we have actually consulted with most of those. We are continuing those outreach calls and meetings to listen to what senators have to say and hear what their views are.”

“The President welcomes people suggesting names. That's part of the consultation process. But not only are we going to consult before the nomination is made, but we'll continue to consult once the nomination is made.”

“We've also consulted with more than half of the Democratic conference in the United States Senate. We've spoken with every member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. And we are continuing that outreach as we speak. A number of White House staffers have been reaching out to individual members, and the President is going to be sitting down and meeting with those four leaders tomorrow.”

-White House Press Secretary, Scott McClellan, White House Press Briefing, 7/11/05